MARVEL COMICS

WHAT IF...

DOOM™ BECAME SORCERER SUPREME™

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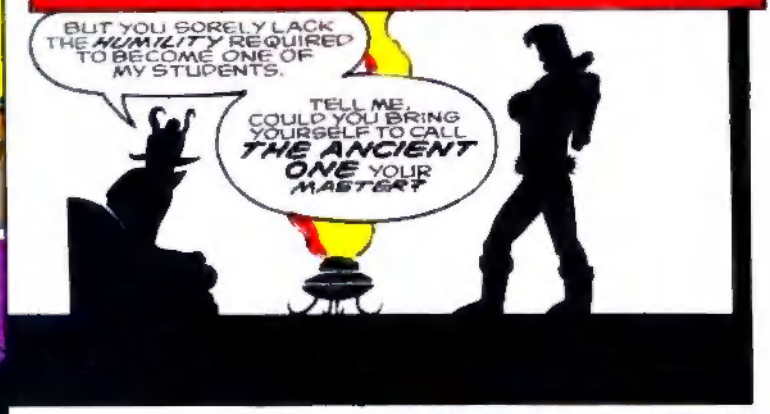
A SECLUDED TEMPLE, HIDDEN HIGH IN THE MOUNTAINS OF THE HIMALAYAS.
YOU! YOU ARE THE MAN I SEEK, THE ANCIENT ONE!
I HAVE TRAVELED DISTANCES UNDREAMT OF TO LEARN YOUR SECRETS, OLD MAN!
THEN YOU HAVE JOURNEYED IN VAIN, STRANGER.
WHAT?! YOU WOULD DARE DENY ME, OLD MAN?!
STOP! I WILL PERMIT NO ACT OF VIOLENCE HERE! NONE MAY LIFT A HAND AGAINST THE ANCIENT ONE!
WITH A SLIGHT GESTURE, THE SORCERER RAISES THE INTRUDER OFF THE GROUND.
YOU THINK I WOULD ENTRUST MY ARCANE SECRETS TO ONE AS BRASH AND IMPUDENT AS YOURSELF?!
I WOULD NOT SEE THEM WASTED ON ONE SO UNWORTHY!
UNWORTHY?! THERE IS NO ONE ELSE MORE DESERVING OF THIS POWER...
...THAN VICTOR VON DOOM!

WHAT IF . . . ? ™ Vol. 2, No. 52, August, 1993. (ISSN # 1048-0609) Published by MARVEL COMICS. Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1993 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.60 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. $15.00. Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. All other foreign countries must add $12.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. WHAT IF . . . ? THE WATCHER, DR. DOOM, DR. STRANGE (and all other prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) are trademarks of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO WHAT IF . . . ?, c/o MARVEL COMICS, SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in the U.S.A.

BACK IN THE TEMPLE CHAMBER.
SO, VICTOR VON DOOM, YOU BELIEVE YOURSELF WORTHY, EH? I WILL LOOK INTO YOUR PAST AND JUDGE FOR MYSELF.
HERE IS YOUR EARLIEST MEMORY--ON THE RUN FROM TYRANTS; YOUR FATHER SACRIFICED ALL TO PROTECT YOU...
VON DOOM IS DYING... BUT THE BOY STILL HAS A CHANCE. I MUST GET THEM BACK TO CAMP!
"FROM THE ANGER OF A SMALL BOY GREW A LIFETIME OBSESSION FOR VENGEANCE AND POWER.
THEY MURDERED MY MOTHER WHEN I WAS BUT AN INFANT! AND NOW THEY HAVE SLAIN MY FATHER!
THEY'LL PAY FOR THAT! ALL OF MANKIND SHALL PAY!
"NOT LONG AFTER, YOU FOUND A CHEST, HIDDEN AMONG YOUR FATHER'S MEAGER BELONGINGS.
"IT WAS YOUR MOTHER'S AND INSIDE YOU FOUND ALL MANNER OF MYSTIC TALISMANS AND ARTIFACTS.
"ALL THE STORIES YOU HEARD AS A BOY WERE TRUE. YOUR MOTHER WAS A WITCH! YOU WENT FAST TO WORK, LEARNING ALL HER SECRETS.
"AND WHEN SORCERY FAILED YOU TURNED TO THE WORLD OF SCIENCE. A BRILLIANT AND KEEN MIND, YOU ATTRACTED A SCHOLARSHIP FROM AN AMERICAN COLLEGE.
IF THE FACULTY STAFF EVER LEARNS THAT YOU'VE BEEN CONDUCTING FORBIDDEN EXPERIMENTS...
TRYING TO CONTACT THE NETHERWORLD.
SILENCE! JUST DO AS YOU'RE TOLD! THROW THE SWITCH!
"OVER THE YEARS YOU'D LEARNED THAT YOUR MOTHER'S SOUL WAS TRAPPED IN THAT HELLISH PLACE.
"YOU THOUGHT IF YOU COULD BRIDGE BOTH DIMENSIONS, MAYBE YOU COULD SET HER FREE...
THOOM
"BUT SOMETHING HAD GONE HORRIBLY WRONG...
"YOU ESCAPED WITH MINOR INJURIES TO YOUR FACE, AND MAJOR WOUNDS TO YOUR PRIDE...
VON DOOM, I AM EXPELLING YOU FROM THIS SCHOOL BEFORE YOU CAUSE GREATER HARM TO YOURSELF, OR TO US!
BAH! THERE'S NOTHING MORE YOU CAN TEACH ME ANYWAY!
"AND SO YOU LEFT! TAKING YOURSELF TO THE REMOTE MOUNTAINS OF THE HIMALAYAS, SEEKING THE FORBIDDEN SECRETS OF SORCERY.
"IN YOUR TRAVELS YOU HAD HEARD OF MANY MYSTIC PEOPLES AND PLACES HIDDEN IN THESE MOUNTAINS: A LONG FORGOTTEN ORDER OF MONKS, THE CITIES OF ATTILAN AND K'UN LUN...
"BUT SOME INNER VOICE LED YOU HERE...

I HAVE SEEN ENOUGH. YOU DO NOT WISH TO LEARN MY ARCANE SECRETS FOR ENLIGHTENMENT, BUT RATHER FOR POWER.
I SEEK THEM AS A TOOL.
A KEY TO FREE MY MOTHER'S SOUL FROM THE NETHERWORLD.

THERE IS A NOBILITY ABOUT YOU, VON DOOM.
A SPARK OF DECENCY WHICH I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FAN INTO A FLAME!


BUT YOU SORELY LACK THE HUMILITY REQUIRED TO BECOME ONE OF MY STUDENTS.
TELL ME, COULD YOU BRING YOURSELF TO CALL THE ANCIENT ONE YOUR MASTER?

IN THE PAST I HAVE CALLED OTHERS "TEACHER." I AM WILLING TO EXTEND THE COURTESY TO YOU...
...PROVIDING YOU AID ME IN MY QUEST TO FREE MY MOTHER'S TORTURED SOUL!

AGREED. I WELCOME YOU INTO MY HOME, VICTOR VON DOOM...
...AS MY LATEST PUPIL.

SO THERE IS A NEW ARRIVAL IN THE MASTER'S TEMPLE.
DON'T WORRY FRIEND, MORDO SHALL KEEP A WATCHFUL EYE ON YOU.

IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOW MORDO FINDS THAT HE DOESN'T LIKE WHAT HE SEES.

THIS MAN CALLED DOOM IS FANATICAL IN HIS STUDIES, LEARNING IN DAYS DISCIPLINES IT TOOK MORDO MONTHS TO MASTER.

HIS FEELINGS TOWARDS DOOM SHIFT AS QUICKLY AS DOOM'S SKILLS.

FROM ANNOYANCE TO ENVY, FROM ENVY TO HATRED...

...AND FINALLY TO FEAR!

THE TIME INEVITABLY COMES WHERE HE IS MOVED INTO ACTION...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY CHAMBER, MORDO? I DEMAND AN EXPLANATION.

AN EXPLANATION? IT'S SIMPLE, DOOM, I'VE COME TO KILL YOU.

OR CAN'T YOU GRASP THAT?

OH I CAN GRASP IT WELL ENOUGH.

WHAT?! YOU SHRUG OFF MY MOST POWERFUL SPELLS!

IMPOSSIBLE! THIS CAN'T BE!

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE, FOOL!

SMASHH

"A MECHANICAL MAN!!"

AAAHHH!

SPLUTCH

IT'S CALLED A ROBOT, DOLT!

DOOM?!

IN THE FLESH.

WH-WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?

INJECTED A NANNITE BOMB DEEP WITHIN THE RECESSES OF YOUR SKULL.

IT'S A POWERFUL EXPLOSIVE, HOUSED IN A NEAR SUB-ATOMIC CONSTRUCT. I DOUBT THAT EVEN THE SKILLS OF THE ANCIENT ONE COULD DETECT IT.
VICTOR!
IT IS TOTALLY UNDER MY CONTROL AND WILL DETONATE UPON A SIMPLE MENTAL COMMAND, OR IN THE EVENT OF MY DEATH.
CROSS ME AGAIN, MORDO, AND I SWEAR YOU WILL NOT LIVE TO REGRET IT!

WHAT IS IT NOW?
I WITNESSED YOUR CONFRONTATION WITH MORDO AND I MUST COMMEND YOU! YOU HANDLED YOURSELF ADMIRABLY.
THIS "NANNITE BOMB", A WONDERFUL RUSE! WHAT IMAGINATION!
HOW NAIVE YOU ARE, ANCIENT ONE! YOU ARE A SLAVE TO THE FORCES OF THE OCCULT, COMPLETELY IGNORANT TO THOSE OF SCIENCE.

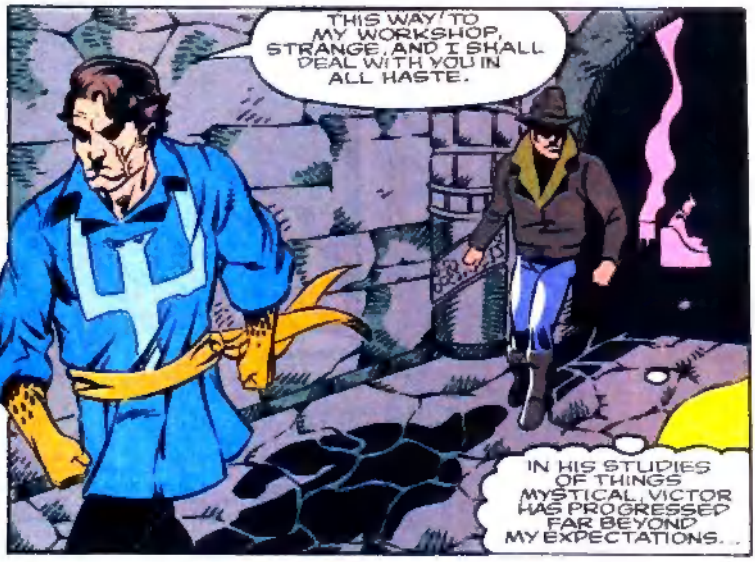
"YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO CONCEPT OF WHAT I AM CAPABLE OF...
"DO YOU, OLD MAN?"

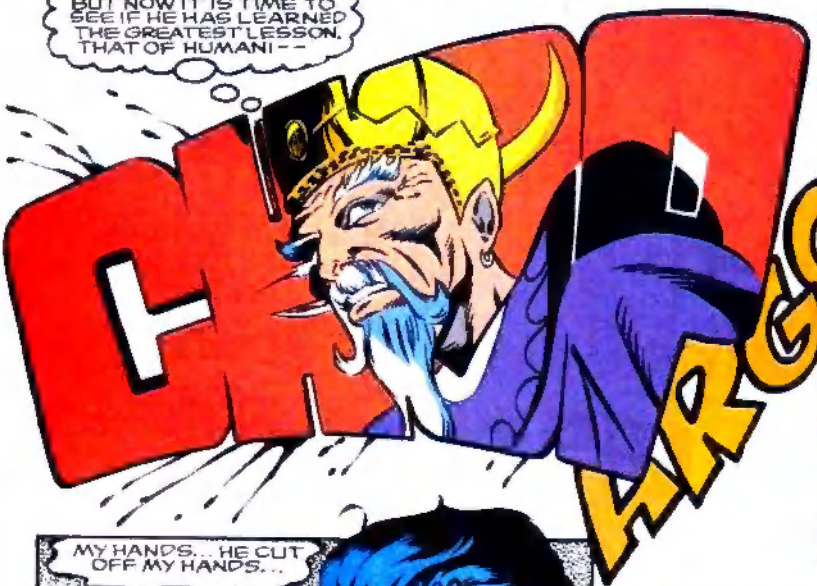
TIME PASSES WITHOUT INCIDENT. UNTIL ONE FATEFUL DAY A STRANGER ARRIVES AT THE TEMPLE...
I'VE SEARCHED FOR MONTHS! BUT NOW, AT LAST MY QUEST IS ENDED!

WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS HERE?
I'M DR. STEPHEN STRANGE, A SURGEON FROM AMERICA.
I'M HERE FOR THE ANCIENT ONE! THE ONE WITH THE HEALING POWER!
THE ANCIENT ONE IS DEEP IN MEDITATION. HE WILL SEE NO ONE.
BUT I MUST SEE HIM!

A CAR CRASH ROBBED ME OF THE USE OF MY HANDS. THE NERVE DAMAGE IS BEYOND ANYTHING MODERN MEDICINE CAN CURE!
WITHOUT HIS CURES I'LL NEVER PRACTICE AGAIN.
AS IF ANY OF THIS IS MY CONCERN!

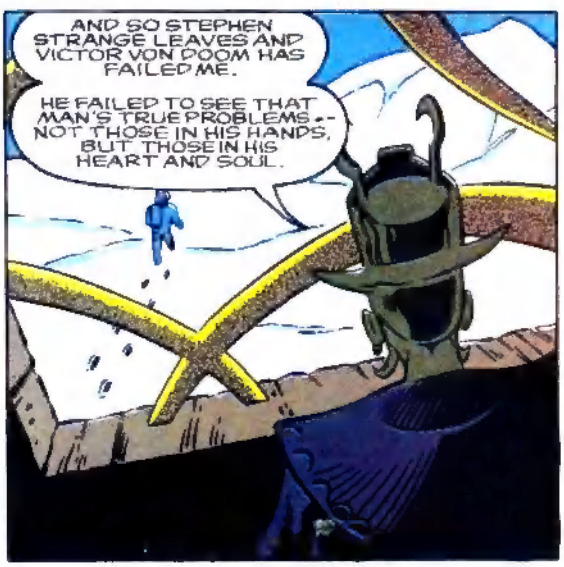
VICTOR...
IF YOU CAN TRULY HELP THIS MAN WITH HIS PROBLEMS...
...THEN YOU HAVE LEARNED ALL THAT I NEED TO TEACH YOU, AND YOUR TRAINING WILL BE COMPLETE.


THIS WAY! TO MY WORKSHOP, STRANGE, AND I SHALL DEAL WITH YOU IN ALL HASTE.
IN HIS STUDIES OF THINGS MYSTICAL, VICTOR HAS PROGRESSED FAR BEYOND MY EXPECTATIONS...


BUT NOW IT IS TIME TO SEE IF HE HAS LEARNED THE GREATEST LESSON, THAT OF HUMANI--
ARGGHH

WHAT TRANSPIRES HERE?! TELL ME AT ONCE!

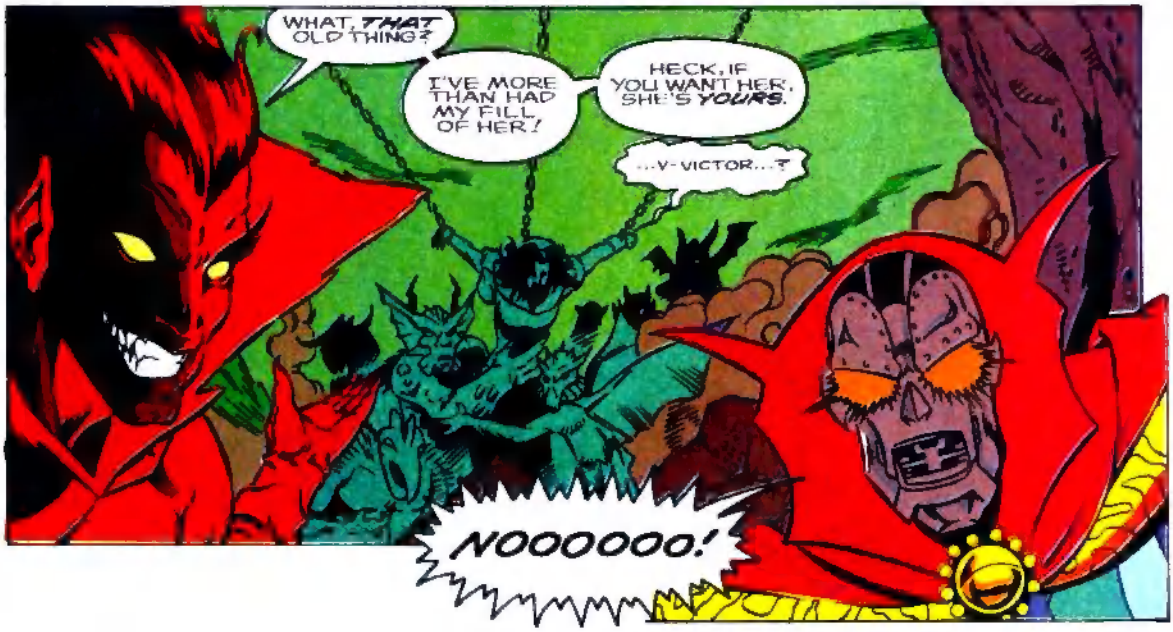
MY HANDS... HE CUT OFF MY HANDS...
YES, AND REPLACED THEM WITH A PAIR FROM ONE OF MY ROBOTS. STOP STATING THE OBVIOUS, STRANGE.
NOW, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PERFORM OPERATIONS WITH SUPERHUMAN ACCURACY. YOU'VE BEEN REMADE, DOCTOR, BETTER THAN BEFORE.


AND SO STEPHEN STRANGE LEAVES AND VICTOR VON DOOM HAS FAILED ME.
HE FAILED TO SEE THAT MAN'S TRUE PROBLEMS -- NOT THOSE IN HIS HANDS, BUT THOSE IN HIS HEART AND SOUL.

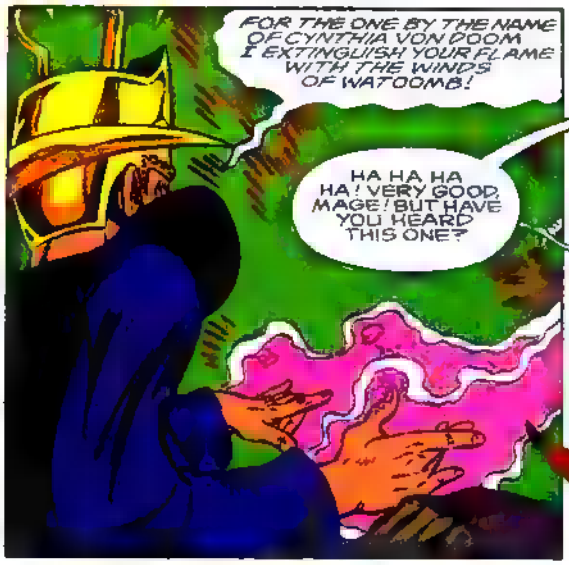
VICTOR IS NOT THE MAN DESTINED TO BE MY SUCCESSOR. AND UNLIKE MORDO, HE'S TOO CUNNING TO KEEP UNDER MY CONTROL...
IT WOULD BE BEST FOR ALL IF I FULFILL MY PART OF OUR BARGAIN BEFORE HE MASTERS ANY MORE OF THE MYSTIC ARTS.
BUT IS HE READY ENOUGH FOR THE CHALLENGES OF THE NETHERWORLD?
THESE ARTIFACTS -- THE CLOAK OF LEVITATION AND THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO -- SHOULD COMPENSATE FOR WHAT YOUNG DOOM LACKS IN SKILL.
I HAD MEANT THESE TO GO TO A WORTHY SUCCESSOR BUT ALAS...
VICTOR, I BROUGHT YOU SOME THINGS WHICH WILL AID YOU IN OUR JOURNEY...
IT IS I!
THE FIRST TIME I VENTURED TOWARDS THE NETHERWORLD I WAS ILL PREPARED. NOW THANKS TO SCIENCE AND SORCERY, I AM ARMORED INSIDE AND OUT!
MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT, ANCIENT ONE. THIS IS THE MOMENT I HAVE BEEN PREPARING FOR MY ENTIRE LIFE!
SO CAST YOUR SPELLS, MAGE! OPEN WIDE THE GATES OF HELL, AND LET NOTHING STAND IN OUR WAY!
BY THE HOARY HOSTS OF HOGGOTH! VICTOR...?

THE NETHERWORLD.
ASTOUNDING! YOUR SPELLS HAVE BRIDGED THE GAP BETWEEN DIMENSIONS WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A JOLT OR JOSTLE!
MY OWN EXPERIENCE LED ME TO BELIEVE THAT THE JOURNEY WOULD BE MORE...
...VOLATILE.

THAT WAS A LITTLE GIFT FOR YOU, VON DOOM.
FIRST TIME YOU STUCK YOUR FACE IN MY DIMENSION, I BLEW IT UP.
AND NOW YOU'VE GIVEN ME YOUR WHOLE BODY TO PLAY WITH. YOU JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN TO QUIT!
MEPHISTO!
KEEP YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU, VICTOR.
LIES ARE HIS GREATEST WEAPON. ONLY WITH THE TRUTH WILL WE DEFEAT HIM AND SAVE YOUR MOTHER'S SOUL.


WHAT, THAT OLD THING?
I'VE MORE THAN HAD MY FILL OF HER!
HECK, IF YOU WANT HER, SHE'S YOURS.
...V-VICTOR...?
NOOOOOO!

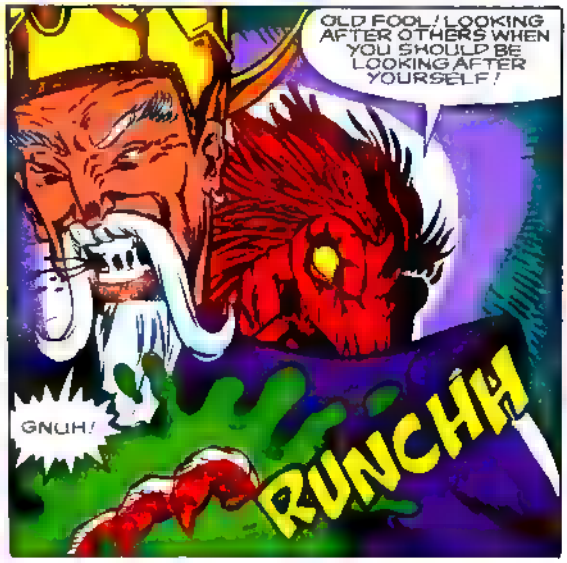
MOTHER!
VICTOR, NO! YOU PLAY INTO HIS HANDS!
TOO LATE, MAGE! YOUR DISCIPLE DEPARTS...
...DIVIDING YOUR FORCES, AND LEAVING YOU EASY PREY.
YOU ARE PETTY, MEPHISTO. YOU PERCEIVE SIZE AS STRENGTH AND FEAR AS POWER.
VISHANTI WILLING, I WILL SHOW YOU THE ERROR OF YOUR WAYS.
AWAY, FOUL HELLSPAWN! OR FEEL THE WRATH OF DOOM!

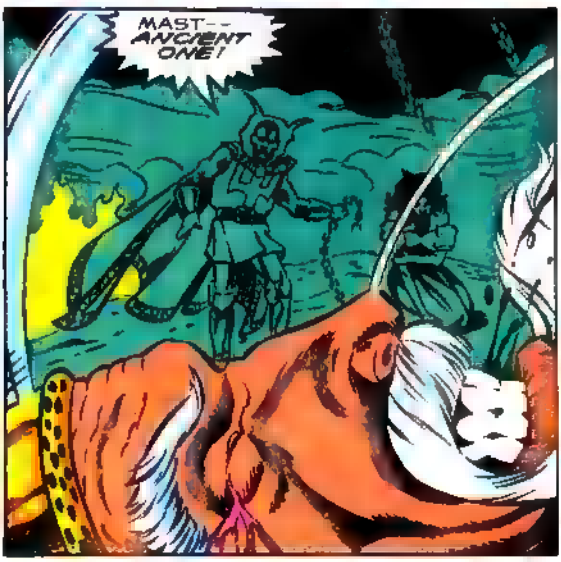

FOR THE ONE BY THE NAME OF CYNTHIA VON DOOM I EXTINGUISH YOUR FLAME WITH THE WINDS OF WATOOMB!
HA HA HA HA! VERY GOOD, MAGE! BUT HAVE YOU HEARD THIS ONE?

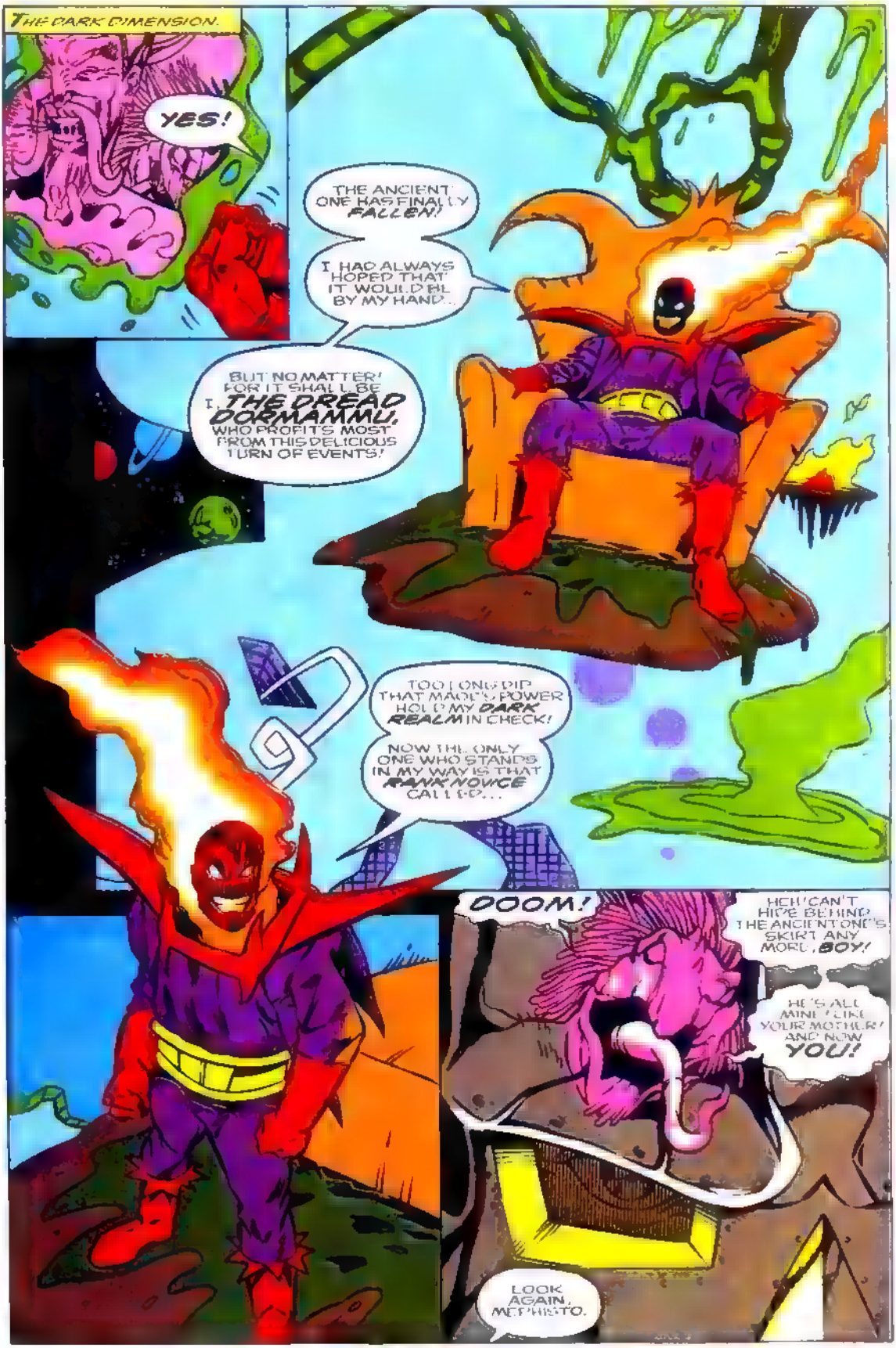
THERE ONCE WAS A MAN FROM NANTUCKET...

HE SEEKS TO DISTRACT ME SO THAT I WON'T NOTICE...
VICTOR! WITH A DEMON ABOUT TO STRIKE HIM FROM BEHIND!

MOONS OF MUNIPOOR GUIDE MY ARM! AND KEEP MY STUDENT SAFE FROM HARM!
HYARR!
SHRAKK


OLD FOOL! LOOKING AFTER OTHERS WHEN YOU SHOULD BE LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF!
GNUH!
RUNCHH

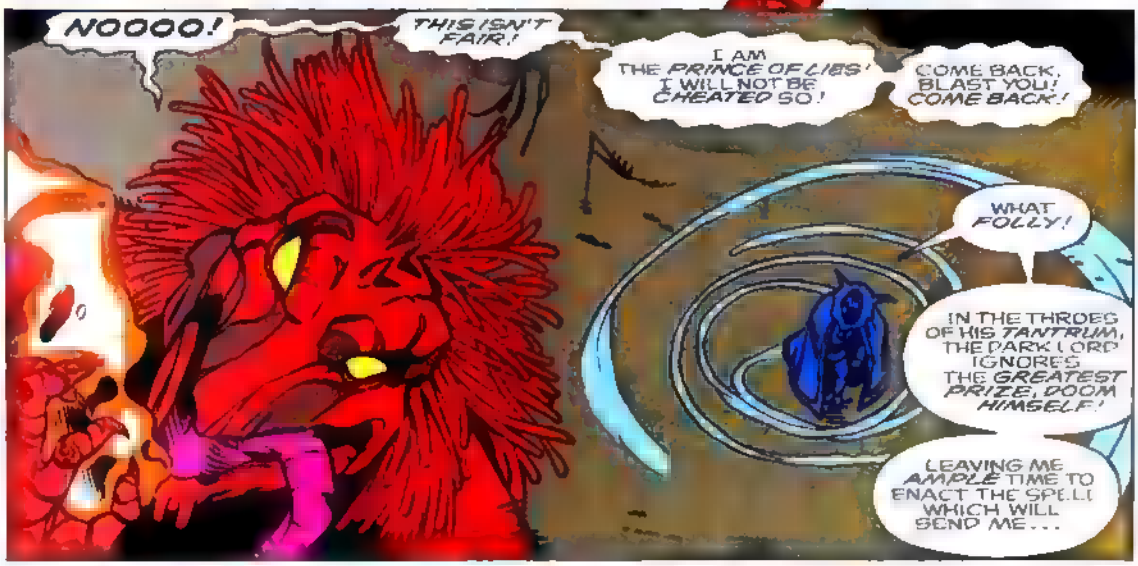

MAST-- ANCIENT ONE!


THE DARK DIMENSION.
YES!
THE ANCIENT ONE HAS FINALLY FALLEN!
I HAD ALWAYS HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE BY MY HAND...
BUT NO MATTER! FOR IT SHALL BE I, THE DREAD DORMAMMU, WHO PROFITS MOST FROM THIS DELICIOUS TURN OF EVENTS!
TOO LONG DID THAT MADE'S POWER HOLD MY DARK REALM IN CHECK!
NOW THE ONLY ONE WHO STANDS IN MY WAY IS THAT RANK NOVICE CALLED...
DOOM!
HEH! CAN'T HIDE BEHIND THE ANCIENT ONE'S SKIRT ANY MORE, BOY!
HE'S ALL MINE! LIKE YOUR MOTHER! AND NOW YOU!
LOOK AGAIN, MEPHISTO.

WHAT?!
THIS CANNOT BE!
YOU HAVE MADE A FATAL FLAW, EVIL ONE. YOU HAVE CONFUSED THE SPIRIT WITH THE FLESH.
THE VESSEL WITH ITS CONTENT.
THIS LAND HOLDS NO SWAY OVER MY FORM, AND THUS I DEPART TAKING THE LADY VON DOOM WITH ME.

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT!
CYNTHIA VON DOOM IS MINE!
AAARRRGHHH!

MY HAND! IT SEARS AT THE TOUCH!
SUCH IS THE TEXTURE OF PURITY TO ONE SUCH AS YOURSELF.
WE LEAVE YOU NOW FOR A BETTER PLACE!

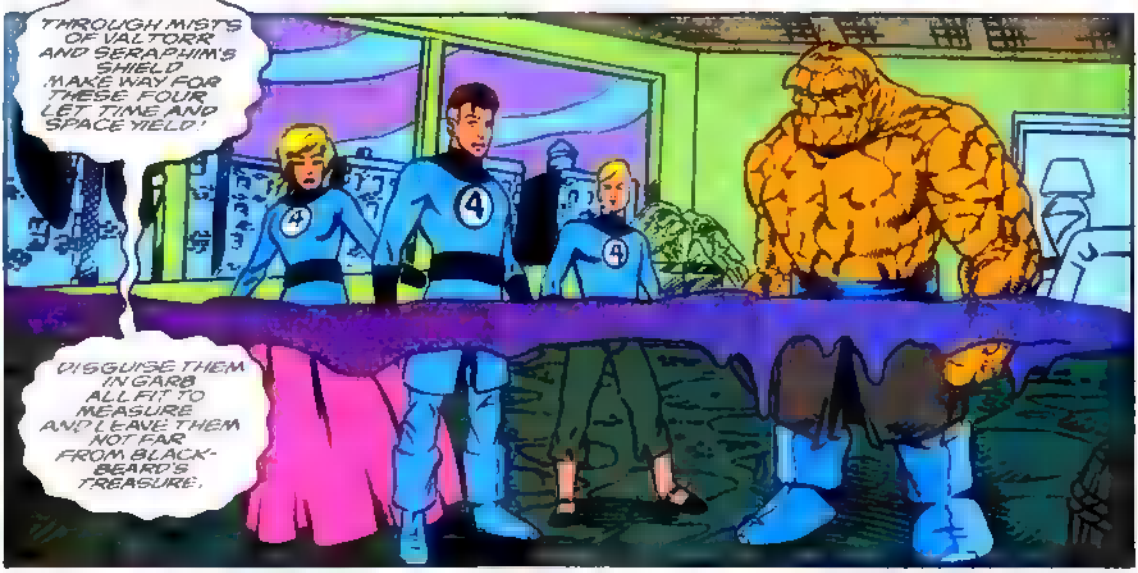

NOOOO!
THIS ISN'T FAIR!
I AM THE PRINCE OF LIES! I WILL NOT BE CHEATED SO!
COME BACK, BLAST YOU! COME BACK!
WHAT FOLLY!
IN THE THROES OF HIS TANTRUM, THE DARK LORD IGNORES THE GREATEST PRIZE, DOOM HIMSELF!
LEAVING ME AMPLE TIME TO ENACT THE SPELL WHICH WILL SEND ME...

...BACK!
YOU HAVE RETURNED... BUT WHERE IS THE MASTER?
I AM THE MASTER NOW!
I KNEW IT! YOU'VE FAILED IN YOUR INSANE QUEST!
WE HAVE LOST THE MASTER, AND EVEN AS WE SPEAK MEPHISTO READIES HIS REVENGE!
WHAT ARE YOU GABBLING ABOUT, MORDO?
LOOK...
THE VERY SKIES ERUPT IN HELLFIRE!
MINDLESS DOLT, THAT IS NO HELLFIRE! IT IS THE FLAMES OF PALTINE!
QUICKLY, MORDO, TO MY WORKSHOP!
THERE IS PRECIOUS LITTLE TIME, AND MUCH TO DO!

THE WORLD-FAMOUS BAXTER BUILDING, HEADQUARTERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.
HOLY HANNAH! BAT MEN IN THE BIG APPLE?
I EITHER GOT TA GET MY BABY BLUES CHECKED OR STOP EATIN' ANCHOVY PUDDIN' BEFORE BEDTIME!
I'M STARTIN' TO SEE THINGS!
NOT SO, OLD FRIEND.
MY SCANNERS HAVE DETECTED A GIGANTIC DIMENSIONAL RIFT OPENING OVER MANHATTAN!
REED'S RIGHT, BEN. REPORTS ARE COMING IN FROM ALL OVER THE CITY!
DEMON-LIKE CREATURES ARE POPPING UP EVERYWHERE!
WELL, WHAT'RE WE DOING STANDING AROUND HERE FOR?
FLAME ON!
JOHNNY! WAIT, SON, WE STILL DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST!
THWIK
FLAMIN' FIREBALLS!
AN ENERGY SHIELD! HEY, WHAT'S GOIN' ON?!

A GRID [redacted] SOME SORT IS SURROUNDING THE ENTIRE BUILDING!
THEY'RE CALLED THE CRIMSON BA[redacted] OF CYTTORAK, RICHARDS, [redacted]D THEY'LL HOLD YOU HERE AS LONG AS [redacted] WISH.
OHMIGOSH, REED, WHO IS THAT?!
THAT VOICE... IT CAN'T BE! BUT IT IS– VICTOR VON DOOM?!
ARE YOU THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THIS?!
CHOOSE YOUR WORDS CAREFULLY, RICHARDS. I AM NO LONGER THE VICTOR VON DOOM YOU ONCE KNEW, BUT RATHER EARTH'S SORCERER SUPREME!
EVEN AS MY SPIRIT FORM APPEARS BEFORE YOU, MY CORPOREAL FORM BATTLES THE [redacted] DORMMAMU, A BEING WHOSE MIGHT [redacted] BEYOND YOUR IMAGININGS.
THAT DEMON-WARP YOUR SENSORS PERCEIVE IS HIS DIMENSION BREAKING INTO O[redacted]
IF NOT FOR MY MAGIC, THAT WARP WOULD STILL BE OVER THE BARREN HIMALAYAS, AS OPPOSED TO NEW YORK WHERE YOUR DENSE POPULATION OF SUPER-POWERED BEINGS HAVE A CHANCE AT HOLDING IT AT BAY!
YEAH, WELL IF YOU'RE SO HIGH N' MIGHTY THEN WHAT DO YOU NEED [redacted] FOR, CASPER?
A MASTER STRATAGEM. I INTEND TO PUT YOU INTO PLAY, MAKING A MOVE MY OPPONENT WOULD NEVER EXPECT, AND THEREBY WIN THE GAME.
VERY WELL, DOOM. THE FF WILL HELP YOU... FOR THE PRESENT.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS, PAL! MAYBE YOU DON'T REMEMBER OUR COLLEGE DAYS...
BUT MR. GENIUS [redacted] IS THE GUY WHO BLEW HIS FACE OFF RIGHT [redacted]FORE MIDTERMS!

I SHARE YOUR RESERVATIONS, BEN. BUT WHAT OTHER CHOICE DO WE, OR THE REST OF THE WORLD HAVE?
YEESH, WHAT A REVOLTIN' DEVELOPMENT THIS IS!
CRUDELY PUT, GRIMM, BUT APT. NOW ALL OF YOU, BRACE YOURSELVES


THROUGH MISTS OF VALTORR AND SERAPHIM'S SHIELD MAKE WAY FOR THESE FOUR LET TIME AND SPACE YIELD!
DISGUISE THEM IN GARB ALL FIT TO MEASURE AND LEAVE THEM NOT FAR FROM BLACK-BEARD'S TREASURE.

FANTASTIC!

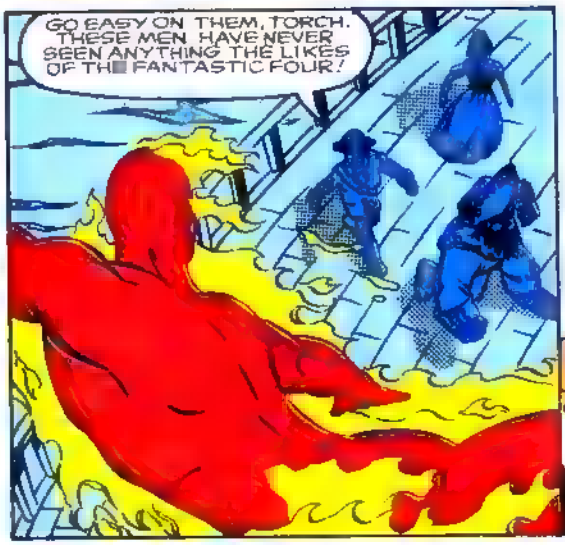
WITHIN THE BLINK OF AN EYE WE'VE BEEN TRANSPORTED HUNDREDS OF YEARS BACK THROUGH TIME!
I WONDER IF THERE'S AMPLE TIME TO STUDY THIS PHENOMENON...?
DON'T TAKE TOO LONG, BIG BRAIN! THIS THING ITCHES LIKE CRAZY!
AW, DON'T BE SUCH A GRUMP, THING! I MEAN, WE'RE PIRATES! THIS'S SO COOL!

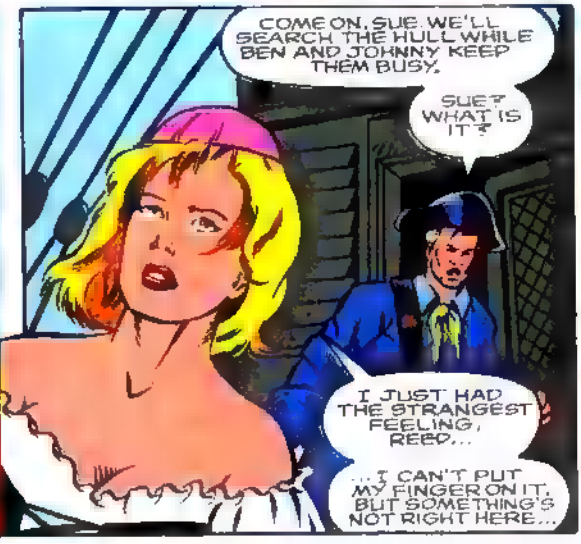
ENOUGH OF THIS SENSELESS PRATTLE!
EVERY MOMENT YOU SQUANDER HERE IN THE PAST, DORMAMMU GAINS MORE OF A FOOTHOLD ON OUR PRESENT.

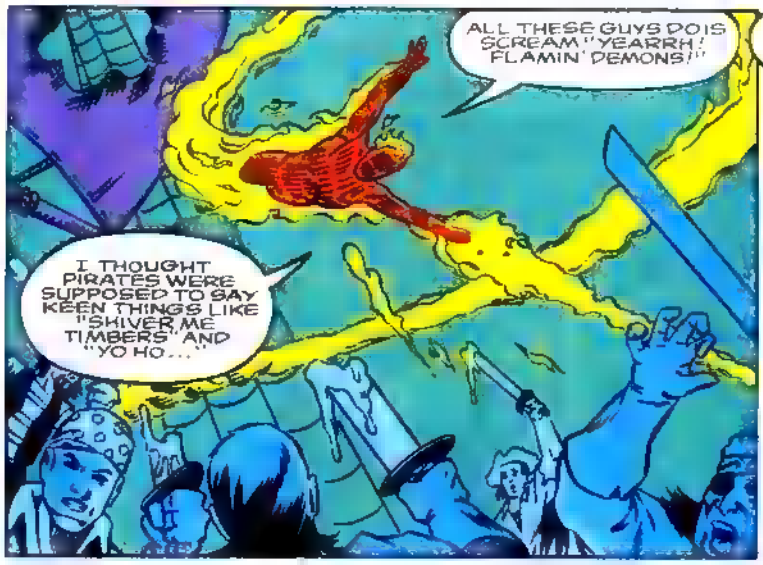
ABOARD THE SHIP IS THE PRIZE WE SEEK, BLACK BEARD'S TREASURE CHEST!
INSIDE IS AN OBSIDIAN STONE THAT ONCE BELONGED TO MERLIN, THE GREATEST OF ALL MAGICIANS!
WITH ITS MIGHT BACKING MY OWN, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO TURN THE TIDE AGAINST DORMMAMU'S FORCES!
FIND IT AND MY SPELL WILL SEND YOU BACK TO THE PRESENT! NOW QUICKLY!

'WORD AIN'T IN HIS VOCABULARY, SUZIE! AND BESIDES, WE'RE JUST THE HIRED HELP!
HEY, GUYS, LAST ONE ON BOARD'S A SKRULL-HUGGER!
HE COULD'VE AT LEAST SAID "PLEASE."
IDOL A' MILLIONS ONE DAY, STEP'N' FETCH IT BOY THE NEXT! MY AUNT PETUNIA BETTER NOT HEAR 'BOUT THIS!
SEE YA!

HEY, THERE, FELLAS! HOT ENOUGH FOR YA?
AVAST!! WE'RE BEIN' ATTACKED BY A FLAMIN' DEMON!


GO EASY ON THEM, TORCH. THESE MEN HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING THE LIKES OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!


COME ON, SUE. WE'LL SEARCH THE HULL WHILE BEN AND JOHNNY KEEP THEM BUSY.
SUE? WHAT IS IT?
I JUST HAD THE STRANGEST FEELING, REED...
...I CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT, BUT SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT HERE...


ALL THESE GUYS DOIS SCREAM "YEARRH! FLAMIN' DEMONS!"
I THOUGHT PIRATES WERE SUPPOSED TO SAY KEEN THINGS LIKE "SHIVER ME TIMBERS" AND "YO HO..."

YEAH, WELL WE GOTTA A "KEEN" SAYING BACK AT YANCY STREET, KID...
GOES SOMETHIN' LIKE THIS...

IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!
I'LL BE! THE BLACK-BEARDED ONE HAS THE STRENGTH OF A HUNDRED MEN!

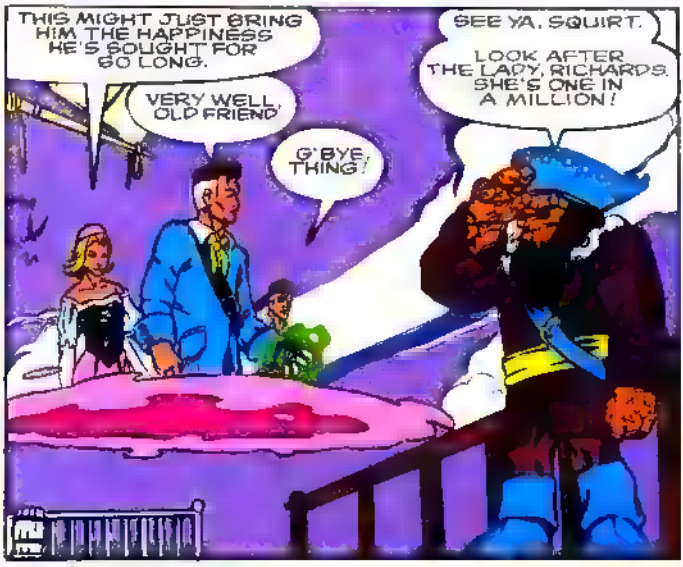
IT'S JUST... I DON'T KNOW, REED. IT FEELS LIKE I BELONG HERE.
THAT'S PROBABLY A SIDE EFFECT FROM THE TEMPORAL DISPLACEMENT.
NONE OF US REALLY *BELONGS* HERE, SUE.

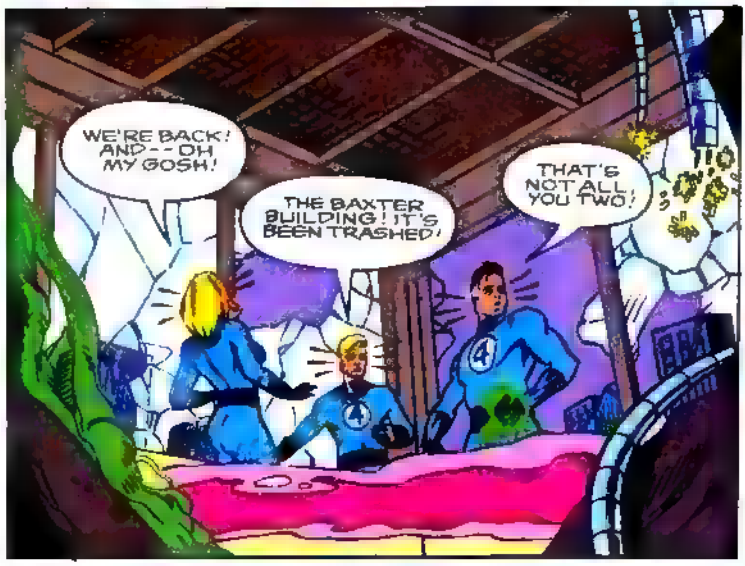
AND NOW THAT WE'VE FOUND VON DOOM'S TALISMAN, *THAT* WILL SOON BE RECTIFIED.
LET'S GO TOPSIDE AND REGROUP WITH THE OTHERS.

ABOVE DECK.
FINALLY, SOME RESPECT!
HAIL, BLACKBEARD! HURRAH!

BEN, THIS IS INCREDIBLE! YOU ARE BLACKBEARD! YOU'VE COME BACK IN TIME TO FIND YOURSELF!
'N I LIKE WHAT I'VE FOUND, STRETCHO! I'M NO LONGER A MONSTER OR A FREAK! I'M SOMEBODY HERE!
MAYBE I'LL HANG AROUND FOR A WHILE.

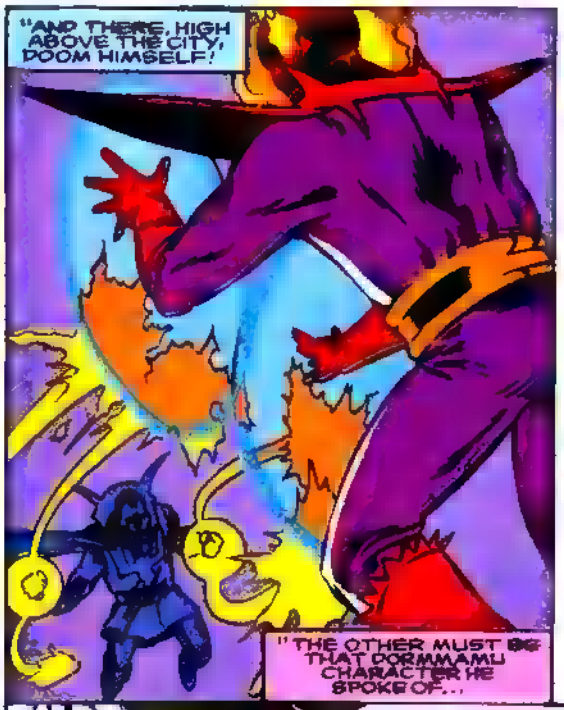
BEN, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS...
I THINK WE SHOULD LET HIM, REED.


THIS MIGHT JUST BRING HIM THE HAPPINESS HE'S SOUGHT FOR SO LONG.
VERY WELL OLD FRIEND.
G'BYE, THING!
SEE YA, SQUIRT.
LOOK AFTER THE LADY, RICHARDS. SHE'S ONE IN A MILLION!

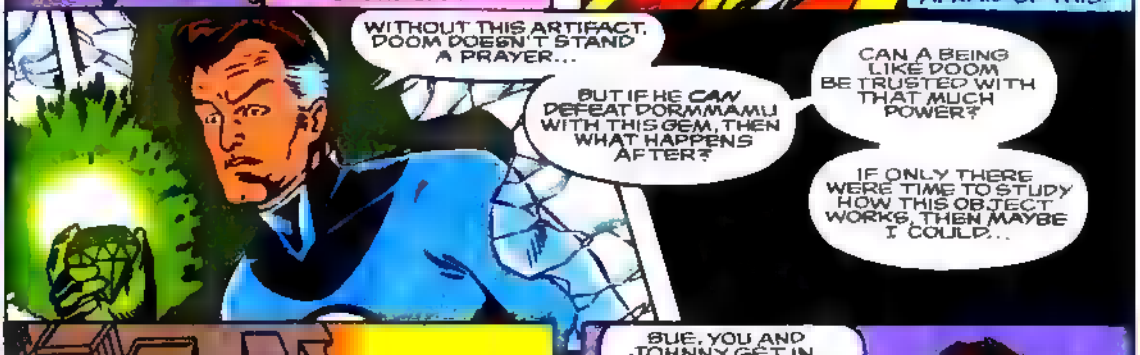

WE'RE BACK! AND--OH MY GOSH!
THE BAXTER BUILDING! IT'S BEEN TRASHED!
THAT'S NOT ALL, YOU TWO!

LOOK OUTSIDE!

"DOOM WASN'T EXAGGERATING ONE IOTA.
"IT REALLY IS TAKING ALL OF NEW YORK'S HEROES TO HOLD BACK THIS DEMON-STORM!
"THE AVENGERS!
"DAREDEVIL!
"THE X-MEN!
"AND SPIDER-MAN."


"AND THERE, HIGH ABOVE THE CITY, DOOM HIMSELF!
"THE OTHER MUST BE THAT DORMMAMU CHARACTER HE SPOKE OF...

"DOESN'T LOOK LIKE DOOM'S FARING TO WELL...
KRAKATHOOM
"BLAST! I WAS AFRAID OF THIS!

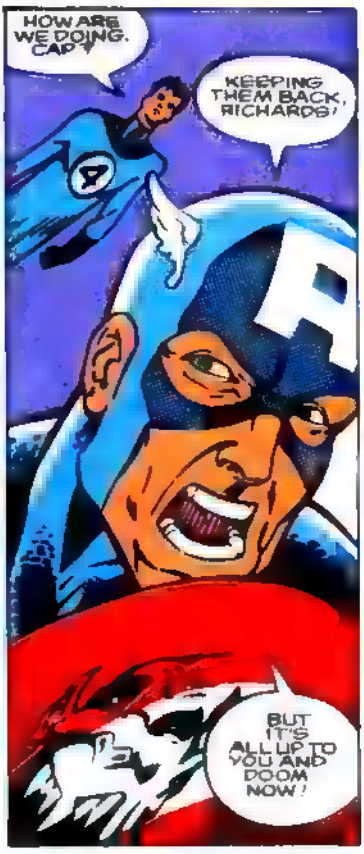

WITHOUT THIS ARTIFACT, DOOM DOESN'T STAND A PRAYER...
BUT IF HE CAN DEFEAT DORMMAMU WITH THIS GEM, THEN WHAT HAPPENS AFTER?
CAN A BEING LIKE DOOM BE TRUSTED WITH THAT MUCH POWER?
IF ONLY THERE WERE TIME TO STUDY HOW THIS OBJECT WORKS, THEN MAYBE I COULD...

AAAHHH!

SUE, YOU AND JOHNNY GET IN THE POGO PLANE...
...AND GET READY TO PUT AS MUCH DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND MANHATTAN AS POSSIBLE!
REED, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

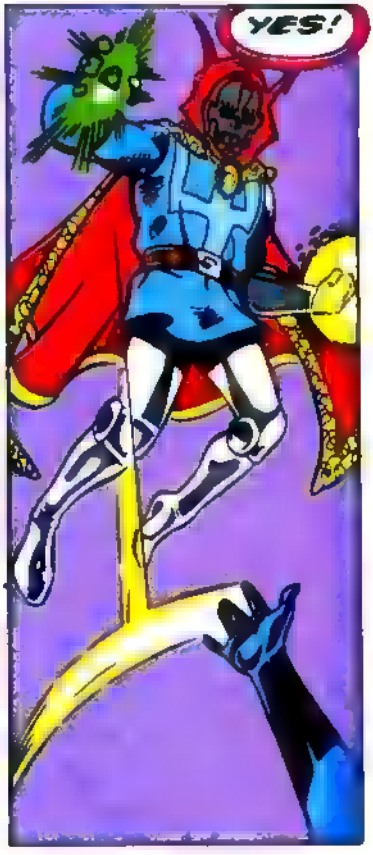
I DON'T KNOW, SUE. HEAVEN HELP ME, I JUST DON'T KNOW!
MR. FANTASTIC! THANK GOD YOU-- *CRK*!
WHY IF IT ISN'T THE CAVALRY! YOU SURE ARE CUTTING IT AWFULLY CLOSE, REED!

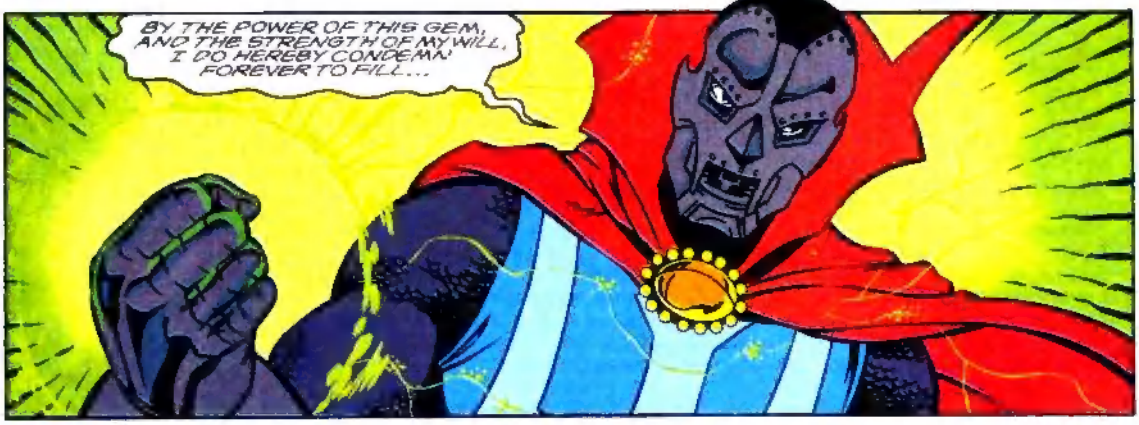
ALL THESE HEROES, THEY ALL HAVE FAITH IN THE MAN...
WHY CAN'T I?

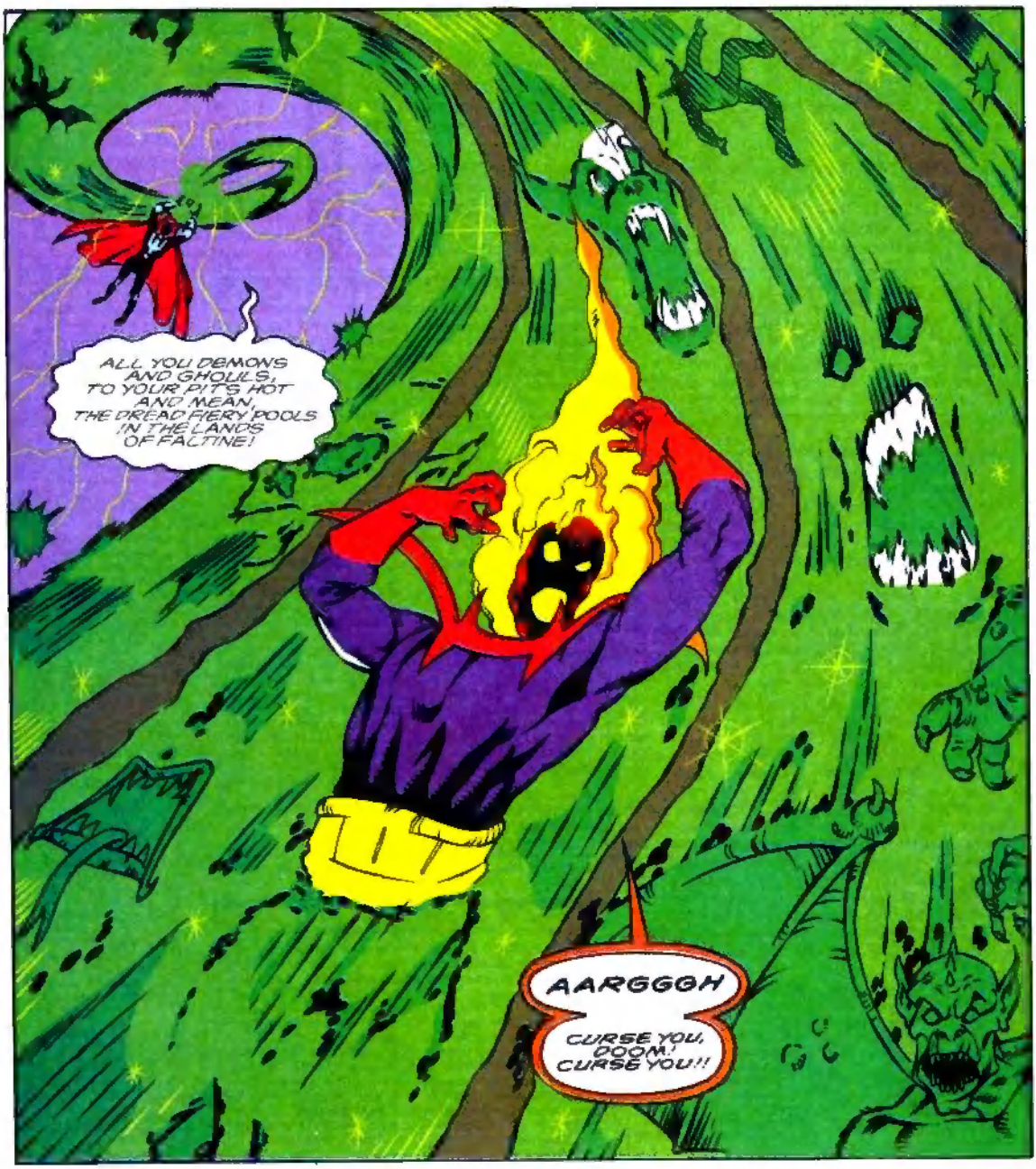

HOW ARE WE DOING, CAP?
KEEPING THEM BACK, RICHARDS!
BUT IT'S ALL UP TO YOU AND DOOM NOW!

ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER PLACE, I'D PROBABLY DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO KEEP THIS THING AWAY FROM DOOM...

AND HERE I AM BRINGING IT TO HIM LIKE SOME SORT OF LACKEY...
VON DOOM! DOWN HERE!
RICHARDS? FINALLY! THE GEM, HURRY, MAN!

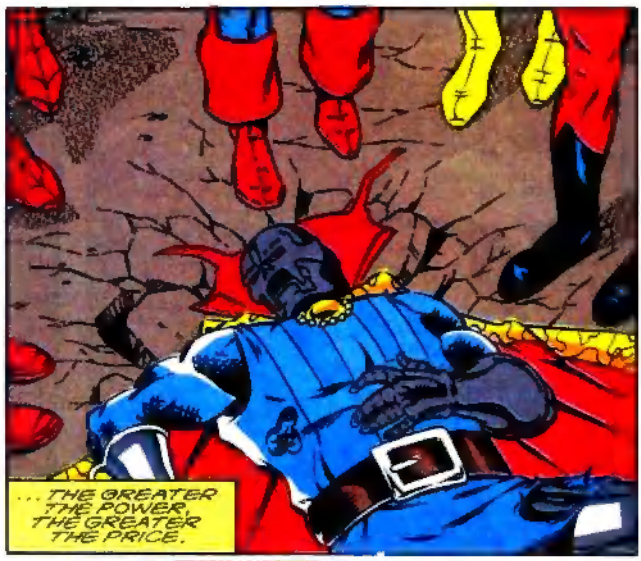

YES!

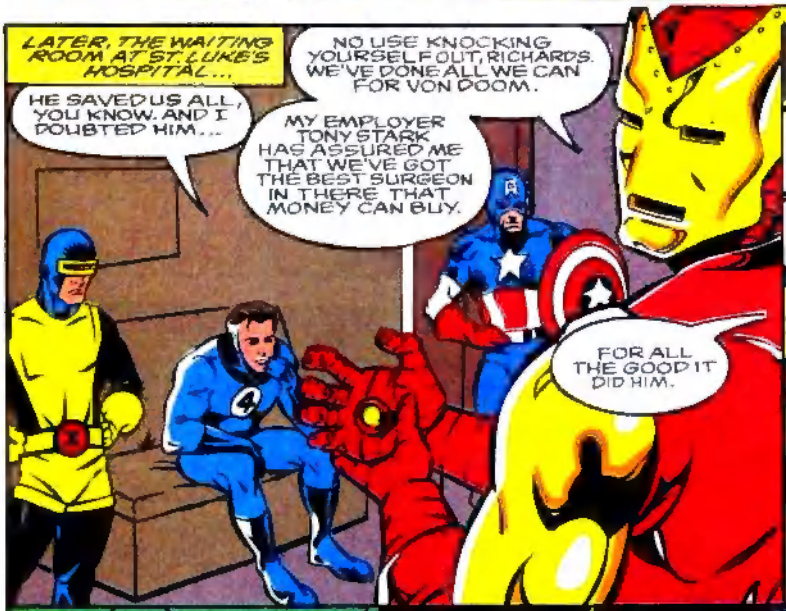

BY THE POWER OF THIS GEM, AND THE STRENGTH OF MY WILL, I DO HEREBY CONDEMN FOREVER TO FILL...


ALL YOU DEMONS AND GHOULS, TO YOUR PITS HOT AND MEAN, THE DREAD FIERY POOLS IN THE LANDS OF FALTINE!
AARGGGH
CURSE YOU, DOOM! CURSE YOU!!!

YES... CURSE... ME...
...HOW... APT...

FOR AS IT IS WITH MOST MAGIC...


...THE GREATER THE POWER, THE GREATER THE PRICE.


LATER, THE WAITING ROOM AT ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL...
HE SAVED US ALL, YOU KNOW. AND I DOUBTED HIM...
NO USE KNOCKING YOURSELF OUT, RICHARDS. WE'VE DONE ALL WE CAN FOR VON DOOM.
MY EMPLOYER TONY STARK HAS ASSURED ME THAT WE'VE GOT THE BEST SURGEON IN THERE THAT MONEY CAN BUY.
FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DID HIM.

STRANGE
SURGERY
I'M SORRY, GENTLEMEN, I'VE DONE ALL I CAN...
BUT THE DAMAGE WAS TOO EXTENSIVE.

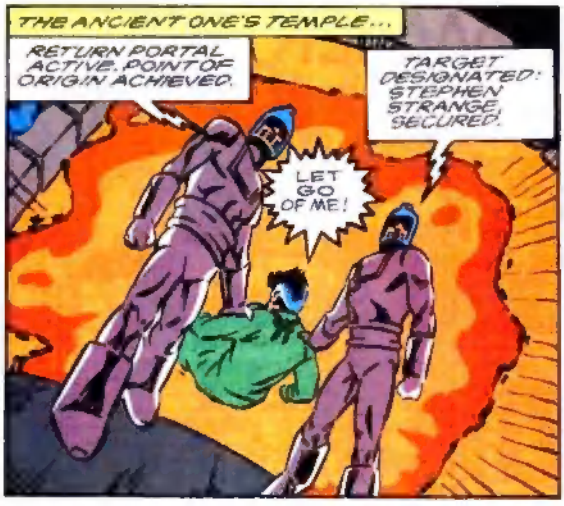
WELL, VON DOOM, WE'VE COME FULL CIRCLE.
I CAN NEVER PAY YOU BACK FOR WHAT YOU DID TO MY HANDS...
...BUT STARK'S CHECK WILL HELP TO EASE THE PAIN.

THIS MOMENT...
...HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR.
STILL HANGING IN THERE, EH, DOOM?
GIVE IT UP, YOU'RE ALL OUT OF TIME.

OH, NO, STRANGE. I... WE... HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD...
WHAT... WHAT'S GOING ON?

FROM THE MOMENT I MET YOU, STEPHEN... I SENSED GREAT MYSTICAL POTENTIAL IN YOU...
CLOSE TO... DARE I SAY... MY OWN.
A GLORIOUS DESTINY AWAITS YOU, DR. STRANGE.

A GLORIOUS DESTINY...



RESTRAINTS IN PLACE. ACTIVATING THE REMEMBRANCER

DOWNLOADING VON DOOM FILES. POST-NATAL UP TO PRE-DEATH MEMORIES.

ACTIVATING.

NO!!

AS SORCERER SUPREME, IT CAN BE SAID THAT VICTOR VON DOOM HAD BOTH THE MOST SHORT-LIVED AND LONG-REMEMBERED TENURE OF THEM ALL.

FOR WITH BOTH HIS ENDLESS SCHEMING AND HIS BOUNDLESS EGO, HE ASSURED THAT THIS WORLD WOULD ALWAYS HAVE A SORCERER SUPREME...

...AND THAT SORCERER WOULD ALWAYS BE *DOOM!*

NEXT ISSUE ■ THREE BIZARRE TALES OF ALTERNATE REALITIES GUARANTEED TO MAKE YOUR BRAIN RUN AWAY FROM HOME! Plus: THE RETURN OF OUR LETTERS PAGE AND THE START OF THE MOST INCREDIBLE ***WHAT IF...?*** OPPORTUNITY OF ALL TIME! BE HERE IN THIRTY DAYS!